

**Mass Communication Specialist First Class**  
**(Expeditionary Warfare/ Fleet Marine Force Warfare/ Seabee Combat Warfare)**

**Ja'lon A. Rhinehart, United States Navy**

Mass Communication Specialist First Class Ja'lon A. Rhinehart was born in Indianapolis, Ind., and graduated North Central High School in June 1998. After graduation, he enrolled at Purdue University, double majoring in Visual Communication Design and Photography. He graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and enlisted in the United States Navy. He attended Recruit Training at Recruit Training Center Great Lakes and reported to the Navy's Photographer's Mate 'A' School in October 2004.

Upon completion of his rate training in March 2005, Petty Officer Rhinehart reported to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) ONE in Rota, Spain, for duty as the battalion photojournalist, working in the public affairs office. While assigned at NMCB One, he deployed to Okinawa, Japan, and Ramadi, Iraq. Petty Officer Rhinehart gained the distinction of being named Chief of Naval Information Photojournalist of the Year in 2006 and Junior Sailor of the Quarter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter for the Gulf Coast Area in 2007.

In October 2008, he reported to NECC Detachment Combat Camera, Norfolk. At Combat Camera, Petty Officer Rhinehart deployed as a combat cameraman in support of Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, Balad, in early 2009 and again in support of Combined Task Group 56.1 Bahrain 2010. While serving at Expeditionary Combat Camera, Petty Officer Rhinehart was recognized as the command Junior Sailor of the Year for 2010. He was meritoriously advanced to First Class Petty Officer in January 2011. Petty Officer Rhinehart most recently served as Expeditionary Combat Camera's Training department Assistant Leading Petty Officer; Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Qualification Coordinator; and Assistant Command Fitness Leader.

Petty Officer Rhinehart reported to the Defense Information School in October 2011, and is currently an instructor of the Basic Mass Communication Specialist Course. While at DINFOS, he was recognized as the DINFOS 2012 Sailor of the Year.

Petty Officer Rhinehart's personal decorations include: Joint Service Commendation Medal; Navy Achievement Medal (5); Master Training Specialist; Expeditionary Warfare Insignia; Fleet Marine Force Warfare Insignia; and Seabee Combat Warfare Insignia and various other personal, campaign and unit awards.

Petty Officer Rhinehart's short term goals are to earn the rank of Chief Petty Officer and to achieve his Master Training Specialist qualification per Navy and DINFOS curriculum. Looking ahead long term his ultimate military goal is to become a Force Master Chief.